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WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE AND GOVERNANCE

Report by the secretariat

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Introduction

1. The problems facing women in public life and governance were made clear during the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, (1976 to 1985). A major element in the difficulties has always been the interaction between the public and private spheres of life and the position of women in society. Although much has been done to ensure a position for women in public life, not only during the Decade but also since the adoption in 1985 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies during the period from 1986 to the Year 2000 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, 1/ there remain many serious obstacles to the implementation of women's rights and freedom to participate in public life on an equal basis to that of men.

2. The Forward-looking Strategies addressed these issues in two different ways. First, under the major theme of Equality. Paragraph 43 speaks of the need to eliminate both de jure and de facto discrimination. This need for a double effort is further emphasized in paragraph 45, which states that one of the fundamental obstacles to women's equality and status derives from larger social, economic, political and cultural factors which have been justified on the basis of physiological differences. Second, under chapter 51, paragraphs 356-365, propose a series of more detailed proposals to ensure women's rights to participate in public life. Adopted by the General Assembly, the Strategies were intended to serve as internationally agreed guidelines for implementation at the national level.

3. As a measure of the importance attached to the need for the integration of women in political decision-making, the General Assembly, in its resolution A/48/108, made special mention of women in public life. 2/ Accordingly, this is included in the agendas of all the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women. At the same time, the General Assembly noted that information should be provided on the decision-making position of women in the fields of science and technology. Further, the subject of women in international decision-making will be discussed at the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-ninth session, in 1995. 3/

4. The objective of all these activities is to accelerate the removal of the remaining obstacles to women's full and equal participation in all spheres of life, not only in economic and political decision-making but also in action to protect women's human rights at all stages in their life cycle.

5. Involvement in public life can mean occupying formal and visible positions both in political and economic life, filled by selection, election, appointment or promotion. Such positions may be of an executive, representative, advisory, or supervisory nature and often associated with Governments. However, public life must also include participation, on an equal basis with men, in informal and voluntary activities at the community level.

6. The ECE region comprises 54 countries 4/ with vastly different political, social and economic traditions. Women are under-represented in public life and governance across the region with important regional variations. 5/ In this regard women in the region join with women all over the world in facing many common barriers to the exercise of their rights to participate in public decision-making. 6/

I. WOMEN'S RIGHT AND FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC LIFE AND GOVERNANCE

7. The Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 7/ and other international human rights instruments, as well as national legislation, ensure de jure equality for women. This legislation has been joined by a number of international conventions specifically drawn up to promote the rights of women to vote and be elected. These rights are made explicit in articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. 8/ Significantly, the 1993 Vienna Declaration of Human Rights 9/ urged the full and equal enjoyment by women of all human rights and emphasized that this is a priority concern for Governments and the United Nations.

8. However, from the statistical evidence that exists it is clear the intentions laid out in the Forward-looking Strategies and elsewhere have not generally been realized. The barriers and disincentives to such participation are many, diverse and deeply-entrenched. This affects on both men and women since without the equal participation of women and men in public life there can be no real democratic evolution for society. Mindful of the problem, several intergovernmental, regional and national bodies are making the promotion of women's participation in the democratic process a priority. 10/ One method is to track the statistical imbalances between men and women in public life.

9. Steps are being taken by the United Nations to assess the global situation of women through the use of questionnaires. In addition to the statistical data normally collected within the United Nations system, further work has been proposed on the issue of the placement and promotion of women. It is known that European regional organizations such as the Council of Europe, the Commission of the European Communities and the Nordic Council are carrying out similar exercises and developing strategies to overcome the current imbalances in the employment of women and men. 11/ It is important to gather together this information and maintain an overall picture of the situation within all such organizations across the ECE.

10. The Vienna Declaration 12/ urged "the full and equal enjoyment by women of all human rights and emphasized that this be a priority concern for Governments and the United Nations". This accord with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, 13/ which is accepted as being gender - neutral. The fact that nearly 50 years after the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights it was found necessary to reinforce the central principle on which the Universal Declaration is based indicates the serious obstacles that women still encounter in exercising their human rights.

11. The reason for this situation becomes clearer when examining women's responsibilities. Women are still regarded as the carers in society. Inevitably, women have a reproductive role and responsibilities for the next generation. In addition, women are generally assumed to be responsible for the elderly and infirm. This divides women's rights and responsibilities where international human rights instruments call for the integration of human rights and responsibilities.

II. STRENGTHENING FACTORS THAT PROMOTE THE FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE AND GOVERNANCE

12. It has already been noted that women are under-represented in public life and governance throughout the ECE region. This situation is sustained by a range of factors. Some countries have centres of power based on unbroken political traditions. Others have had more dysfunctional experiences. Still others are coping with the tensions involved in moving from authoritarian rule to a system with more liberal social relations in political life.

13. Such different political environments influence the factors that can either promote or negate the equal participation of women in public life and governance. Some of these factors are as follows:

(a) The long-standing past, historical philosophy 14/ and experience of politics as a interaction and competition between men, and the conscious and subconscious perception, retained by both men and women, of man as the rational political or democratic actor, and masculine characteristics as those of leadership;

(b) The absence of a significant body of intellectual opinion supporting the issue of women's representation in public life;

(c) The existence of institutionalized gender-discrimination in public policy (taxation, social security regulations, banking and financial law, the right to citizenship, family law and age discrimination);

(d) The implicit discrimination presented by the culture of an institution political party or association, which has been traditionally male dominated;

(e) The omission of women's perspectives and contributions to society in the media;

(f) The use of sexist language in any form of communication;

(g) Traditional male-oriented assumptions about the nature and role of policy and decision makers (selection system, electoral system and/or size of constituency, timing, duration and location of meetings);

(h) The use of networking as a "patronage" system;

(i) The perception of politics as distant or irrelevant to daily life;

(j) Women's double burden;

(k) Sexual harassment.

All of these factors are likely to place roadblocks in the way of women seeking a role in political life.

A. Education, training and legal literacy

14. Education and early childhood socialization have a major effect on stereotypes current in adult life. Too often they prepare men and women for

separate tasks and life expectations. Many societies, both through informal and formal education, still encourage boys to be more active than girls and to have higher expectations for their future lives, earnings and opportunities. On the other hand, girls are expected to express feminine qualities of submission and good behaviour. The preparation of women for public life must therefore begin in childhood.

15. All Governments agreed to remove gender bias and gender stereotyping from school curricula and teaching materials when they adopted the Forward-looking Strategies and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (Article 5). This expresses the need to modify social and cultural patterns that reinforce notions of superiority and inferiority between the sexes, and is a crucial factor in preparing citizens, male and female, for women's participation in public life.

16. Women's participation in public life has been both limited and enhanced by education. There is a high correlation between education and the pool of applicants from which public appointments are made. The proportion of women in decision-making positions in the 1990s can be substantiated from the ratio of girls to boys in secondary and higher education in the 1970s. This correlation is also supported by data from the United States of America where the increase in college education for women has had a similar effect on their participation in public life. 15/

17. To educate women for political participation and to contribute towards the elimination of existing barriers, the Commission on the Status of Women, at its 1987 session, identified the following strategies:

(a) Educational campaigns by teachers to raise awareness among their female students to participate in non-traditional occupations;

(b) Research and projects combined with scholarships for women to study political issues and processes;

(c) Seminars, community work programmes and artistic activities to encourage women's interest and involvement in political life and leadership capabilities;

(d) The elimination of sexist vocabulary and content from all text books and school manuals. 16/

18. These are all useful measures and the increasing number of books and articles on the subject of women and politics is a testament to many individuals taking up such ideas. School books on civics, and the history of salient women in political history or trades unions also orient women towards the legislative and political processes in their country. School or parental projects on local participatory research such as surveys, then transmitting the findings to local or central government, give young people the sense that as citizens at any level they have the potential to influence policy. Mock debates and simulations of national assemblies are very useful, while school-level research into current events and visits to memorable places can stimulate discussion and an interest in further involvement. University and further education with political clubs are other ways of gaining experience and information on political life.

19. There is a need for training initiatives to enable women to enter decision-making posts at different phases of their life cycle. (This imperative is becoming equally important for men now that traditional approaches to career progression are breaking down.) It can take the form of "mentoring", where experienced female decision-makers give guidance and provide work experience to those who are younger and so transmit a sense of the means by which political decisions are made. While the qualities of leadership may exist in an individual, it is unlikely that they will mature in isolation. Experience, exposure to the issues and participation in the decision-making process are essential.

20. An important source for such recruits are those who have demonstrated leadership in community or voluntary work as well as those in conventional paid employment. This is an area often forgotten by Governments, who contend "they do not know enough qualified women". Creative thinking is required to encourage women who have exerted leadership in the informal sector at the community level to recognize the contribution they have to make to the community at large and foster their skills.

21. An increasing number of organizations including non-governmental organizations offer internships and training to women to seek public office while at the same time maintaining their links with women's groups within the community. This means encouraging women to enter an environment that is frequently hostile to their aims and purposes. A viable support system is often needed. Alliances have to be formed for instance with men, who often make an important contribution. Cross-party coalitions with women are also useful.

22. An important stage in the empowerment of women at both governmental and non-governmental levels lies in support for legal literacy. Before women can truly help themselves, they must understand the de jure provisions for the elimination of discrimination so that their enforcement in day-to-day life becomes a reality. The way forward lies in training which heightens women's awareness of the fact that many barriers to their participation in public life are technically non-existent. An important strategy to ensure equality between women and men must therefore be the allocation of greater resources to legal literacy programmes.

B. Sharing of responsibilities

23. The sharing of private responsibilities to match the sharing of political responsibility could be a new aim in democratic societies, encouraging partnership and mutual participation in both spheres. As time-use surveys demonstrate, in all societies women work many more hours than men, mostly unpaid and in the service of their families. Women are rarely able to control their own time as well as the structuring of employment. This inequality of time worked, and unshared responsibilities, is one of the major inhibitions to women's political participation and a great cause of stress in relationships. The Strategies emphasise that, "the sharing of domestic responsibilities by all members of the family and equal recognition of women's informal and invisible economic contributions in the mainstream of society should be developed as complementary strategies for the elimination of women's secondary status, which has fostered discrimination. 17/

III. WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE

24. Only small numbers of men and women are visibly and continuously politically active. These, even smaller numbers set out and reach the highest roles in leadership. These include extremely few women. Public policy, however, affects the whole of civil society. This means, first, that more women must be involved in the process to ensure that the needs of all parts of the community are reflected. Second, their presence is required to ensure accountability by Governments for the needs of both women and men.

25. In addition, as women are generally responsible for allocating the household budget across the ECE region, account has to be taken of their role as consumers. Women leaders in consumer associations, research and study groups, professional associations and special interest groups such as trade unions are important sources for decision-making roles in public life.

26. Some countries within the ECE region make a practice of alternating professional staff between work in business corporations and government. Although women's role in the corporate sector has greatly increased in recent years, too often they are confronted by the so-called "glass-ceiling". More attention should be paid to the role of women managers in the public sphere.

27. There is ample evidence of women active across the ECE region in all kinds of ad hoc non-governmental activities from parent/teacher associations and school boards to neighbourhood amenity and environmental groups. All these activities have both a grassroots impact and a political impact. The issues and the skills involved do not necessarily transfer such activists directly to the national scene but should be regarded as important centres for local authority activity and pools from which public appointments can be made.

28. Women's right to take part in public life and governance is well established and there is ample evidence that women's contribution to society has been and still is very substantial. Too often this contribution has been made within the informal sector, neither rewarded financially or within the political reward system. The "invisible" nature of this contribution also stands in the way of recognition by men of how much their own careers and existence depend on the work involved.

29. It is therefore important to distinguish among the many different ways in which leadership can be exercised. Such positions are generally publicly elected, selected or appointed positions. There is a need to build bridges between such overt roles and the less well understood leadership roles exercised by non-governmental organizations and grassroots organizations.

30. Political scientists have begun to analyse what makes a "critical mass" to ensure that the political environment is more "woman-friendly". Figures in which there are less than 15% of women are heavily skewed; a balance emerges with 40% of either sex. Such a balance is of the utmost importance in changing popular reactions of both men and women towards women politicians. This has its own effect on the performance and effectiveness of women deputies/members/representatives. It also has an impact on the nature of public debate and policy outcomes right through the decision-making process so that the advancement of women can have a positive outcome both for women and men.

31. Resistance from male politicians to women's advancement may increase as they perceive their own prospects to be threatened in the competition for scarce political positions. As long as this factor is present support from women's groups, civic education of men and women, and special temporary measures such as quotas or targets could be put in place. Specific efforts to eliminate ideas of men against women or women against men should be made. The only way toward true democracy can be to highlight the pressing need for all to work cooperatively towards solving local, national, regional and international problems.

A. Women's involvement and access to science and technology 18/

32. Although women account for over half the world's adult population, the fact that they do not yet contribute to all aspects of national development is particularly apparent in science and technology. Greater efforts are needed to ensure the equal distribution of the benefits of scientific and technological development and its application to both men and women in society. A greater voice for women in the decision-making process related to science and technology including planning and setting priorities for research and development should be facilitated. This is particularly important in the choice acquisition, adaptation, innovation, and application of science and technology for development.

33. Every effort should be made to facilitate the equal access of women and men to scientific and technological training and to the respective professional careers that follow such an education. In similar manner to the military, science and technology has been an exclusive male domain over the centuries and the situation compounded by the exclusion of women from universities where science and technology has been taught virtually until the beginning of this century.

34. The processes needed to "equalize" the creation and utilization of science and technology can be seen to be linked:

(a) Changing role-models to ensure that women's scientific capabilities and achievements are recognized;

(b) More girls and women being encouraged and enabled to enter technical professions and engineering;

(c) Increasing the participation of women in technical, industrial and ethical decision-making;

(d) Scientific and engineering research and development more responsive to women's needs;

(e) Technological innovation more adjusted to meet human needs.

35. Special programmes and incentives can be provided to enable girls and women to study mathematics, the hard sciences and engineering to expand their numbers and influence in high-priority development areas such as clean water, energy, public health, housing, food production and nutrition and a healthy and sustainable environment in which to live. Further programmes could cover the most advanced technologies such as space technology particularly for

environmental monitoring, in order to increase its development for peaceful purposes.

36. The capacity of women to influence research on economic and social development is important, partly to rectify the historic exclusion of women and because it is necessary to anticipate the effects of technology and modern industries on women's roles, time and work. On the one hand, the closer the design and development of science and technology come to the every day culture and the experiences of women the more valuable the technology will be to them; on the other hand, many new ethical issues are arising out of scientific developments in the realms of genetic engineering, bio-technologies and medical techniques, in which women, as citizens and child-bearers, should have a voice - and even a predominant vote. The redefinition of economics and the productive process itself are also important areas in which to eliminate male bias introduced over centuries with its negative effects on women. These have been experienced during the 1980s and 1990s in the areas of structural adjustment and the environment. 19/

B. Women, mass-media and language

37. The information revolution and the radical development of communication technologies have brought many benefits to all societies. The media have an important role in promoting human rights and government accountability to its people. Despite this responsibility, there is little evidence that the media recognize that the public participation of women in civil society is a standard by which Governments and society itself should be measured. The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies called for media reforms and development of media-related communication policies.

38. In some countries serious efforts are under way to identify the barriers to the political participation of women. 20/ Information campaigns have been organized both by the media and national machineries for the advancement of women (a) to eliminate stereotypes in the portrayal of women; (b) to provide information on women's media, publications and research regarding political issues; and (c) to plan training programmes, provide fellowships and internships to familiarize journalists with the work being undertaken to promote women in public life.

39. An assessment of the prevailing institutional conditions in each country is necessary to establish the actions needed to promote awareness and encourage the media as well as the advertising industry to present positive images of women's activities. Appropriate means should be available to counter sexist imagery. Every effort should be made to develop cooperation across the regions media. The availability of support from international organizations and research centres regarding the impact of communications on the promotion of equality should be made known.

40. Current efforts being made to increase the number of women on advisory and executive boards in regulating the media and the communications industry should be supported. This will help enhance the opportunities for women to have an equal voice in determining the content of all public information activities.

41. Language expresses the prevailing values and practices of society, forming our social and cultural identity. It is through this medium that we

internalize our self image as well as our perception of others. It is therefore paramount to avoid the use of sexist language and so combat sexist stereotypes in individual attitudes and language. Many countries and regional organizations have adopted guidelines for the use of gender-sensitive language to eliminate the dominance of masculine terms and make feminine opinion on political life more visible.

IV. WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE

42. Governance covers a range of political activities within many different structures, the ministerial and representational roles in the legislature, staff for secretariat or civil/public service, employment in political party organization, the judiciary, and personnel required for advisory and supervisory boards. Selection is frequently made by systems in which men predominate. Every effort should be made to see that information on recruitment to new positions is widely disseminated so that both women and men have equal opportunities to be considered.

43. Affirmative action is one means of eliminating age-old disparities in the representation of men and women in public life. A number of countries have adopted such measures, which are endorsed by both the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

44. Affirmative action includes the removal of direct and indirect discriminatory practices, procedures, customs, by-laws, and definitions at the point of entry and of promotion, as well as target - or quota-setting in specific rather than general areas. It requires a negotiated and publicized action plan rather than a mere statement of practice, which is periodically reviewed and updated to meet changing circumstances. In countries where these plans have been established over a period of years, there has been a visible increase in the numbers of women at senior levels.

45. The introduction of quotas as a form of affirmative action remains controversial. Some commentators point to the restrictions it imposes and argue that such procedures are undemocratic. Others see it as the most efficient measure yet devised to ensure the participation of women in political life. There is a strong argument that an important aspect of affirmative action lies in the training opportunities it has opened to women. In turn, quotas intended to provide for the minimum representation of women can become the maximum. Unless other measures are taken at the same time, affirmative action could also retard the long-term participation of women with men in political life. Quotas may also give rise to tokenism.

A. Women's participation in political life

46. There is a mutual relationship between the advancement of women and participation of women in politics. Women's political participation is enhanced by the extent of social and economic support structures, whether or not legal discrimination is eliminated, and if stereotyping of women in education and the media is avoided. Increased participation by women in politics can help improve social, economic, legal and cultural conditions for women, and for society as a whole. The advancement of women should therefore be considered a priority in national decision-making, and women should be full partners in those decisions.

47. Awareness of the importance of political participation is rising among women themselves. This has been enhanced by the development of many forms of non-governmental organizations, many of which have come into existence since the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1975. Coalitions are emerging through connections among grassroots organizations, women in professional associations, researchers, politicians, social workers and professional businesswomen. In countries where such networks exist, where advanced studies and training courses (in political science, law and management) are accessible to and attended by women, and where there are well-developed social support services, women's mass participation in politics is high and their participation in decision-making correspondingly higher than average both in regional and global terms.

1. Women's right to vote and be elected

48. In some countries, women have been celebrating the centenary of their right to vote (the first being New Zealand in 1893) and to stand for election. In the ECE region, Finland was the first such country, followed by Norway. In at least three other countries in the region, the franchise for women came later in the period around the time of the First World War. In others it was after the Second World War. Some six countries in the ECE region legalized women's suffrage only after 1960.

49. Women now have the statutory right to vote and hold office in all ECE countries and a majority of women in most countries have had that right for their entire adult lives. However, few women stand for election and even fewer are elected. It is paradoxical that adult women should make up more than half the electorate but not be represented accordingly although few actual legal barriers exist to women's full participation in decision-making. As has been mentioned above, there are many invisible factors that influence both women's interest and capacity to take an active part in the more public political processes.

50. Most countries do not publish voting preferences by sex and the secret ballot makes the analysis of potential differences in male/female voting patterns difficult. However, use can be made of opinion polls or sample surveys as a means of determining whom, and which party, different sectors of the electorate prefer.

51. There is growing evidence from other sources that women and men have different priorities among issues and are beginning to vote more variedly. Surveys in a number of countries show that women tend to favour different parties to men; that they relate to issues that are of particular concern to women, including family, women's rights, for peace and against military spending. Other studies (for example in some of the countries in transition) show that women are increasingly inclined to see female candidates as capable political representatives.

52. Achieving women's active voting participation requires attention both to the "demand side" of women's voting preferences, and the "supply side" of women as candidates and integral to the effectiveness of political parties and other political institutions.

53. In some countries, women themselves have set up association to support and finance women candidates. Although the resources available rarely meet those of male candidates, this approach has achieved considerable success.

2. Women's participation in political parties

54. Political parties have a strong influence on events even when they are in opposition. In the market economy countries of western Europe women make up between 13% and 50% of party membership but few become party leaders. Those that do generally represent small new political parties. There exists a woman party president in Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, and two in Denmark and Greece.

55. In many countries "proportional representation" election systems are used through which parties receive a number of seats proportionate to the number of votes cast for them. Each party makes up a list of candidates, which is displayed to the electorate. How many women and in what order or position they are placed on the list by the party is also very important to the ultimate result. This system can favour women provided other affirmative actions are involved.

56. There is a growing tendency for women to organize caucuses, committees or sections to advance the voice of women in political parties. Some have restricted their activities to the mobilization of women's votes at election time. Others have combined this with working to make organizational structures more responsive to women's voices. It is a process that requires further development and support.

57. Other measures to increase women's participation in political parties include setting meetings at times that do not clash with childcare and family needs, introducing facilities such as kindergartens, and setting up day-care centres for elderly relatives as well as establishing women's sections in local constituencies.

3. Women and democracy in transitional economies 21/

58. Since 1989, there have been a series of rapid and unpredictable changes in many countries of the ECE region. These have affected the political process and involved many social and economic changes. Although there are few hard data, it appears that these events have triggered a serious reduction in the participation of women in political life and governance.

59. After the Second World War, many of the countries involved founded the political process on egalitarian ideals. These outlawed discrimination toward women, and emphasized their equality with men in the workplace. Legislation and social provision to provide crèches and kindergartens for the use of working women were enacted. The numbers of women at all levels of education increased, in some cases resulting in higher standards of education among women than among men. Despite these positive trends, the numbers of women at the most senior level in political life were few and disproportionately low in comparison with women's participation in local and regional assemblies. It can therefore be seen that the root causes blocking women's full participation in public life go beyond concepts of political thinking to factors that affect women across the ECE region as a whole.

60. Given the magnitude of the developments noted in para.57 above, it is inevitable that concern for the economy and political stability will take centre stage over any other considerations. In a period of economic restructuring it is all too easy to argue that unemployment can be cut if women "return to the home", irrespective of the fact that there may be no home or possibility of maintaining a household without some sort of remunerated employment or social benefits and child care. Such short-term solutions are also likely to affect long-term economic growth if the economic contribution of educated women to the national work force is dissipated.

61. Coping with economic restructuring in all parts of the world falls heavily on women and the children for whom they most frequently have first responsibility. The additional stress and difficulties arising from economic transformation, combined with a drop in household family resources, also means a parallel drop in the time and physical energy available for activities such as political life, which go beyond basic human survival. Failure to recognize the dangers of excluding women from public life for whatever cause are therefore likely to increase social disruption and hinder moves toward stability and economic growth.

62. Despite the serious difficulties they are experiencing, women in transition to new economic structures have an opportunity to create new forms of participation in non-governmental organizations, to relate with women across all 54 countries and take part in the process of building a new ECE region characterized by gender equity, where not only women are heard but also their ideas become an integral part of political life.

B. Participation of women in legislative activities 22/

1. Women in parliamentary activities

63. The precise structure and functioning of the parliament or national assembly differs from country to country across the ECE region, some being single chambers, some bicameral. Some have federal and state parliaments, as well as local government.

64. In 1993 the worldwide average for women in parliaments was only just over 10%. The ECE region shows especially wide divergences between countries. Between 1985 and 1994 women's participation in parliament decreased from 16.14% to 11.44%. In 1987 the average percentage of women in parliament in several Western industrialized countries was less than 10%, and in east European countries it declined from an average of 26.6% in 1987 to 11.7% in 1990. The Nordic countries led with an average well above 30%. Finland (now 39%) originally led the way but has now been overtaken by Norway with 39.4%. Denmark has 33%, Sweden 33.5% (a slight drop from the previous election). These countries all exceed the 30% mark set by the United Nations for 1995. Most other countries are well below this mark.

65. Generally, legislative assemblies carry out their detailed work through a system of sectoral committees. Inevitably, the low proportion of women returned as members of such assemblies affects the possibility of women's voice being heard in such committees. Where women are represented their participation is less varied. They are most frequently clustered in committees dealing with "soft" issues such as social affairs rather than committees on defense and the economy.

66. Notable breakthroughs exist in many countries, for example in the United Kingdom, where the first ever woman speaker of the House of Commons was elected in 1991, and the President and one of the three Vice-Presidents of the Bundestag in Germany are women. However, it is essential that women have a voice in the drafting of new legislation. Strategies should be developed to ensure that women's voice is represented across all the functions available to members of parliaments and national assemblies.

67. Women's representation in the European Parliament is relatively high compared to that in national parliaments of the European Union member States. This holds for the various parties, as well as for the parliamentary committees. After the 1989 elections, women accounted for 19.3% members of the European Parliament, although this was a fall from 27%. Parliamentary committee chairpersons were 11.1% women, who also represented an average of 23% of the members of parliamentary committees, from a low 7.4% on the Rules of Procedures, Verification of Credentials and Immunities Committee; 8.5% on the Agriculture, Fishing and Rural Development Committee, 9.3% on the Budget Committee, 3.2% on the Development and Cooperation Committee, and 32.2% on the Culture, Youth, Education and Media Committee. The 93.3% of women on the Women's Rights Committee alters the overall average considerably. 23/

2. Women's judicial power

68. Laws and judicial systems are based on a country's traditions and culture. Where men participate generally in the public sector and women in the private, it is not surprising that the law, court procedures and law enforcement agencies should demonstrate gender bias or that so-called "customary practice" influences the impartiality of judges. There is a serious need for training across the judiciary to eliminate such implicit and often unrecognized discrimination by those who practice it.

69. The legal system and the law do not automatically benefit all women equally owing to socio-economic inequalities. These affect a women's knowledge of and access to the law and the ability to exercise their full legal rights without fear of recrimination or intimidation. The lack of information among women concerning their legal rights hampers the recourse to justice.

70. As in other areas of discussion, much depends on the representation of women in the legal professions. In turn, this depends on the availability of higher education and, thereafter, access to the "apprenticeship" called upon for all those who exercise judicial power. Currently, there is a trend for more women to enter law school providing an increasing number of women role models along with men interested in advancing women in the legal profession. Non-governmental organizations are emerging to advocate fairer legal structures and laws that are gender neutral. The United States judiciary provides a useful example of the time lag involved in between greater access for women to education and their increased representation in the judicial process. It was only in 1991 that the first women was elected to the United States Supreme Court and only 5% of Federal judges are women, although a larger percentage can be found at the state level, among state prosecutors and in the legal services available to defendants.

71. The nature of legal systems varies across the region but generally the cost of legal services is high despite schemes to ease the situation. This has a serious effect on the poor who are seeking justice and as the majority of

the poor are women, the law, however just, does not automatically benefit all women. Monitoring groups to study the gender neutrality of court hearings and subsequent decisions have been set up by both the legal authorities and the public working through non-governmental organizations. This activity is being supported in some countries both by Governments and by non-governmental organizations to determine the nature of any possible gender, racial or minority bias existing in the judicial system.

C. Women in executive power

1. Women in the civil service

72. Women in the civil service of most countries are concentrated in a narrow range of lower-level administrative rather than executive grades, and retained in the "softer" areas of health, social services and education. Men are given positions with faster or better career paths with more opportunities for in-service training upon which promotion and higher pay may depend. Women in lower career paths are often over-qualified. Many women work as secretaries or typists, or as cleaners, which also affects the view that women's work in an office should be an extension of the domestic "carer"/helper role.

73. The most frequently mentioned constraints on the participation of women at senior levels of the civil service were identified at the 1990 session it Commission on the Status of Women as: 24/

(a) A lack of adequate recruitment and promotion mechanisms preventing women from entering the civil service in significant numbers;

(b) Insufficient appeal mechanisms and a general absence of women on bodies set up to hear appeals;

(c) Bias in job evaluation and classification;

(d) Unequal opportunities in training and career development resulting in differential promotion rates;

(e) Horizontal gender segregation which leads to the marginalization of women by concentrating them in areas traditionally considered to be appropriate to women;

(f) Insufficient participation of women in selection or promotion panels.

74. Strategies suggested by the Commission to overcome these disadvantages:

(a) Enhancing women´s educational qualifications especially in non-traditional areas;

(b) Providing flexible working arrangements;

(c) A clear indication of civil service personnel practices, for example entitlements, appeal mechanism and promotion;

(d) Implementing affirmative action strategies, for example arrangements for workers with family responsibilities as Internatior l Labour Organization Conventions and Recommendations;

(e) Establishing sections or divisions that deal with women's issues.

2. Women in government: ministers and ministerial functions

75. The absence of women at the highest decision-making levels is striking. Women as heads of state or government account for approximately 5% of the world's leaders and this is a relatively recent phenomenon. A similar situation holds for women ministers where women hold only 4% of those available worldwide. Women ministers remain clustered in ministries relating to social welfare, health, education, culture or women's affairs, with some recently to be found in the environment and development. This reflects patterns of inequality already noted in other spheres of public life.

76. In the vital areas of peace and disarmament, foreign affairs, internal security and defence, a figure of 12 women in 10 countries outside central and eastern Europe has been quoted. In the European Union, 57 out of 515 (11.1%) ministerial positions were held by women, with Netherlands and Denmark heading the league. The lowest figures relate to those countries with the smallest number of women members of Parliament.

82. The absence of women's representation at the higher levels of national decision-making has the further effect of limiting the proportions of women to men in international organizations as well as in the international civil service. Some Governments have taken steps to redress this imbalance by developing registers of qualified women from all spheres of life who might be available to work internationally.

3. Women at the provincial, local and municipal level

83. Women's involvement in public life is most visible at the local level. Many of women's first political activities are temporary, close to home, of immediate relevance to the participants and the community, target-oriented and problem-solving rather than institution-building. They often take the form of street protests, strikes, petitions, marches, informal gatherings and discussions. Politics at the local level is less subject to rigid organizational forms involving formal meetings and public statements. It allows more informal networking, personal contact, and neighbourhood and community activities as well as more flexibility with regard to time requirements and the form of action to be taken. There are generally more women in public life at the local and municipal level than at national level.

84. Some studies point to the discrepancy in the distribution of female representatives between urban and rural areas within the regions. Large towns provide a greater number of politically active women than villages, as in rural areas there is often a shortage of female candidates with broad professional and cultural backgrounds and experience in public activities. Where the situation is atypical and women from rural areas are well represented in public life, this is often the outcome of women working in non-governmental organizations to improve their social and economic status.

85. Women in large enough numbers can change the decision-making styles used in public bodies. In local councils in a number of countries where women have achieved a critical mass, women have created a more collaborative atmosphere, have sought consensus rather than confrontation, and have been less formalistic, more pragmatic, and more open to direct cooperation with people.

V. WOMEN IN ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING

86. In the last decades the numbers of women have increased in formal employment in the whole ECE region, and they have become an important element in the labour market. However, they have not reached commensurate senior economic decision-making positions, either in the public or private sector. In several economies, considerable restructuring 25/ has resulted in women occupying more tenuous and unprotected jobs or, as for example in the countries in transition, becoming a substantial majority of the newly unemployed.

A. The public sector

87. In many countries of the region, following the Second World War there was a major expansion in public-sector employment. In some countries this was the only employment available. With the advent of restructuring in many parts of the region decision making opportunities are no longer so readily available either for men or women. However, the implicit division into "male" and "female" employment within the public sector has frequently blocked the promotion of women to executive and technical positions. Some countries have made good progress in this area. For example, the United States shows a considerable proportion of women in the higher reaches of the public sector although this trend shows important differences between single and married women and ethnic groups.

88. A major element in such changes has been equal opportunities legislation within countries. Public-sector employers must ensure compliance and, as such, they provide an important incentive to the private sector to follow suit. Positive action measures, such as fixing the proportional participation of women in promotion and hiring committees, are established by several countries. In Canada, various positive actions have been introduced in public sector employment and, through contract compliance, to companies supplying goods and services to the federal Government. In the United Kingdom, since the late 1980s, most departments within the civil service have assigned an equal opportunity officer who is responsible for sex discrimination.

89. Equal opportunity incentives include tax credits, direct wage subsidies, exemption from social security contributions, subsidies to social security benefits, special employment protection. Sweden, for example, provides the most incentives for flexible working time arrangements, parental leave and rights to reduce working hours for parents with young children. The underlying philosophy is to build a working environment that suits the workers, enabling them to reproduce and develop themselves without loss of employment status. This policy also has the effect of increasing productivity. The intention is to provide an environment that accords with the need of both male and female workers enabling them to remain in the public sector as well as meet their joint responsibilities in the private sector. An important element in such incentives is provision for women to maintain or adapt their professional skills during career breaks. Such provision is also required for men faced by restructuring, privatization and the need for early retirement.

90. There are many challenges in public sector employment in the 1990s. Once seen as an area offering many opportunities for women, trends in restructuring the public sector are beginning to limit women's opportunities. The current policies of privatization and liberalization of markets, and emphasis on

competition, have notable effects on women's employment. Some analysts indicate that these have the specific effect of employers using lower-skilled women as a cheap labour force. Very obviously this reduces women's opportunities and aspirations in other areas of life. New private/public mixed enterprises are being discussed in various quarters. Other challenges arise through social and demographic changes, especially in western Europe, with the increasing proportions of older people putting pressure on public-sector health care and pensions; the increasing numbers of women workers intensifies demand for child-care provisions and relief from care of the elderly.

91. Wage inequalities between men and women in like occupations appear in public-sector employment less than in the private sector, because the rates of pay are published, but overall rates of pay tend to be lower in the public sector. Pay gaps between men and women are still to be found in both sectors, particularly through the clustering of women in the lower administrative grades, and failure to use genuinely gender-neutral assessments for promotion.

B. The private sector

92. Much research is required on the situation of women in the private sector. Some indications come from a Profile of Women Leaders 26/ in the Private Sector. This showed such women to be married or living with a partner but without children. They worked weekly between 40 and 50 hours in a company and 5 hours at home and did not take their full legal holiday entitlement of 25 days. These women were able to work like men but women with children are less likely to be in a similar position and thus take up positions as executives in the private sector.

93. It is hard to deny that many women in executive positions have experienced the "glass-ceiling". This phenomenon excludes them from the highest level of decision-making in corporate life. At this stage, fewer performance indicators are applied and those in power tend to solidarity preferring to share the comfort of known patterns of behaviour and to share influence with other men rather than women. Women have qualities of leadership that are less familiar to men and so less reassuring. Gender sensitization at board level is just as important as at other levels of corporate life. Senior women managers also experience a wide pay difference when compared to their male equivalents; which suggests that women are still seen as secondary earners.

94. In many parts of the ECE region, small and medium enterprises characterize the private sector. More and more women are choosing this option and in many cases developing their own business. Where these are successful it offers political and economic integration as well as the exercise of entrepreneurship and a sense of competence. The trend is particularly evident in those countries where there is a high proportion of women in the labour force and many are educated. Many such enterprises owned by women have begun in the home and yield subsistence income. They are likely to have been started without capital investment The United States Department for Labour, for example, notes that the success rate for small businesses is low in many countries.

95. Where essential resources such as the availability of credit and accounting techniques are available, the chances of women maintaining and developing their entrepreneurial activities is greatly enhanced.

96. The European Union started the project NOW (New Opportunities for Women) to support women who start up their own companies and counteract the increasing number of women who are unemployed, and improves women's economic status. The United States Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988 provides women business owners with financial, management, marketing and technical assistance and prohibits unequal credit provision. The Office of Women's Business Ownership in the United States Small Business Administration announced a programme for long-term training and counselling called Women's Network for Entrepreneurial Training.

C. Trade unions

97. Trade unions can influence both political and economic decision-making. As a growing percentage of the labour force, women have increasingly joined trade unions to safeguard their interests but there is a great disparity in women's numbers in trade unions and their access to the decision-making positions. Thus, for example, in the Austrian Confederation of Trade Unions, women represent 31% of the membership, but they hold only 9% in the executive council. The General Federation of Labour in Belgium has 40% female membership and 8% of decision-making positions occupied by women; the Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions 45% and 19% respectively. The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, 40% and 20%; the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees 58% and 2%. European Union figures show a wide range, with women in large public sector unions (teaching, health social services) outnumbering men, except on the executive boards; although some smaller unions, in Ireland, for example, have evidently agreed that the ratio of membership must be reflected in the board. A 1985 survey showed that in the 15 major unions of the United States with the highest women membership with an average of 45%, only 9.7% are in national governing boards, (however overall only 12.6% of United States women are unionized). The situation in Canada seems to be better, for women trades unionists hold 25% of executive seats. This is below their membership (30% of women are unionized), but high in contrast to other countries. In Canada, it is politically wise as well as legal, to set aside seats on a governing body in order to ensure the representation of certain interest

98. The tripartite social consultation between Governments, trade unions and the employers needs to pay further attention to facilitating women's entry into trade unions leadership positions, to ensure improvements in the working conditions of other women, and to defend their rights in the face of the enormous changes under way in society.

99. In recent years, trades unions have focused on women's concerns to a greater extent than before, with the appointment of equal opportunity officers and an emphasis on training programmes. An example is the annual 3-day training session ln bargaining leadership, political economy, strategic planning, multicultural diversity skills and public speaking provided by the Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD) Massachussetts, United States of America, for women leaders.

VI. WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND DECISION-MAKING IN CIVIL SOCIETY

100. The majority of women - and indeed men - are unlikely ever to be engaged in visible high-level politics and civil administration, or the judiciary. They are members of civil society, seeking to find meaning, balance and order

in their lives, as well as protection against violations of their human rights and dignity whether enacted by the State, commercial interests or other individuals. Members of civil society naturally seek protection from their governments but ultimately they are the arbiters of public policy through the voting system.

101. To ensure consensus between Governments and their constituency, ways of assessing public opinion and cooperation are essential for sound economic and social development. Since the beginning of time, various means of consultation between the "governing" and the "governed" have evolved. In the modern world, non-governmental organizations play a major role in this endeavour. Such organizations are extremely varied in size, internal regulation, funding, staffing and scope. Some function only at the local and national levels, others are active regionally and internationally. They cover every issue of concern to the public and have been called the "conscience of Governments" and at the international level the "conscience of international organizations". By their nature they can raise emerging issues. They can advocate policies that initially might be too controversial to Governments, the legislature or the civil service. As such non-governmental organizations have a crucial role in decision-making within civil society and are an essential means for advancing equality between women and men.

102. Women have always cooperated with others to cope with their traditional role in the family. In the twentieth century this "grassroots" activity has become more precisely organized. The resulting non-governmental organizations present very different profiles. In the area of community action there are those which address traffic dangers, safety within the neighbourhood, support for local schools, welfare services for the elderly and other disadvantaged members of society. Other groups represent particular professional interests, for example, doctors, lawyers, social workers. Still others are clustered around special issues : women's human rights, the elimination of traditional practices harmful to women and children, child labour and AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) sufferers.

103. Such NGOs are linked to the decision-making process in myriad ways but all these relationships have the quality of "consultative status". Sometimes, this is an informal, sounding board type of activity. In others, it is legally ratified and the subject of declared resolutions. There is no formal career path into higher level decision-making available but the exercise of consultative status has a potent effect on change. In effect, leadership roles in NGOs appear to be a public extension of women's traditional leadership roles and responsibility within the family. It is an area of political participation that is often misunderstood and requires much further research and inquiry.

104. More women's organizations could increase their participation in civil and political life and work publicly as advocates and lobbyists for the advancement of all women in local and wider contexts. They can also make educational material and programmes, interpret and define policies, and generate information about opportunities available to women. They can be the link between institutionalized politics and the politically "inactive" women.

105. Where NGOs join together to advance mutually agreed aims and purposes, their role in political decision-making is likely to be greatly enhanced. They have a powerful role in observing and checking the exercise of conventional

politics. Working together, NGOs can make sure that legislation relevant to women's political participation is not only de jure but also de facto.

106. Solidarity is the key ingredient to successful NGO activity. Solidarity is more than expressions of good will through formal events, although these are important because they make a statement to the wider world, as well as, to those supported. Solidarity can be exercised through the formation of coalitions and caucuses, which respect the identity of others, while finding common ground on which to work together. It is the extension and sharing of skills, both through formal programmes and informal contact, and the raising of resources for others. Solidarity can also be expressed through the many small acts of friendship and mutual assistance, acknowledging the sources of ideas and writings, sharing or giving space to others, naming problems, as well as networking and spreading information, and even taking up leadership in the same or a parallel cause without directly knowing the protagonists, counting the cost or anticipating reward.

107. Solidarity is listening to others, rather than imposing views upon them. It is trying to make a difference and to transform policy as well as the knowledge on which it is based. It is to take responsibility and work to limit the damage that may be created through external policies, for example on international debt or structural adjustment policies; or to promote recognition of women's rights by the private sector's international operations. Women and women's movements are making an impact on the mainstream, for example on redefining economics, security, the links between producer and consumer, and these are being taken up by supporters and like-minded people in the international community. Advocacy and lobbying around issues that are not for personal promotion, are acts of solidarity. Solidarity is also taking up and expanding the rights and opportunities won by the sacrifice of others and not taking them for granted because, as historical events show, it is very easy for ground to be lost.

VII. WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY AND PEACE-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

108. The Second World War involved both women and men in the military and since then women have increased their participation in the armed forces in most countries of the region. It is rare for women to have a direct role in combat but as citizens they are more at risk from military activities than as members of the armed forces whether acting as regular or irregular forces. This is made clear by the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index, which cites 84 current conflicts. Women and their dependents form the majority of refugees and displaced people, victims of military aggression. They are also the victims of specific forms of violence that arise during periods of such conflicts: organized and casual rape, systematic, forced and incidental prostitution, the horror of genocide.

109. With the end of direct military conflict and the historic opportunity to resolve the dilemmas which started essentially man-made conflict, women have rarely been invited to the conference table or involved in long-term peace building activities. Where new constitutional arrangements and state institutions are required, women are most frequently absent from the discussions. The Forward-looking Strategies make specific commitments on conflict resolution, international cooperation, multilateral and bilateral negotiations and disarmament efforts.

110. Given the situation noted above it is clear that a major effort is required to implement these paragraphs and enable women to share in peace building. As recommended elsewhere, a priority should be establish a pool of qualified women experts with wide-ranging experience to complement those technically qualified such as disarmament experts.

111. Peace education is an imperative for all members of society. As parents, care providers and often as the majority of primary school teachers, women have a profound influence in encouraging consideration for others, sharing, partnership, toleration, the peaceful solution of conflicts in terms of justice and equality. Peace education is closely linked to non-sexist education aimed at creating equal opportunities in the development of boys and girls. In both cases, the objective is the creation of a just and equitable society for all

112. Women participate in the military through the exercise of their vote. Governments maintain military forces as a function of their existence and to cope with external attack. However, military expenditure requires constant public scrutiny. But women too often see this as "men's business". Greater efforts should be made not only to develop legal literacy among women but political literacy to emphasis the fact that using the vote wisely has significant long-term effects with regard to the percentage of the national budget spent on defence.

113. No systematic country-by-country data have been found to exist on women in military forces in terms of numbers, service or rank. In general, it has been the more traditional areas that have been open to women, such as medical, clerical and other administrative support services. Since the passage of equal opportunities legislation in some countries, women are now more frequently to be found in combat divisions. Some of the experiences of women in the military are beginning to be documented. Less is known about the participation of women in irregular combat forces, although these may have been more open to women.

VIII. FINAL OBSERVATIONS

114. The complex of issues concerning women in public life and governance demonstrate that open commitment is necessary to create an environment in which women can exercise their rights and responsibilities on an equal basis and in partnership with men. Governments, as have been seen, bear the responsibility for creating just such a context. Governments should make their commitment public, open up public debate on the issues involved in the participation of women in public life and, draw upon the best methods already practised in the ECE region and in which the region is particularly rich. Governments should enable women, and women's organizations in particular, the space to discuss the merits and disadvantages of such methods and their adaptation to the different political situations in which women and men live. Every area of public life, political parties, parliament/national assembly, executive, and judiciary, as well as the scientific community, trades unions and media, public and private-sector employers require specific policies and affirmative measures rather than general recommendations. The implementation of full human rights for all should bring about balanced and equal relationships between different social and political partners, as well as between women and men. Although there should be no cost placed on the attainment of peace and social justice, the economic benefits of removing

biases, discrimination and violence can be enumerated and become convincing arguments for those in power to take the necessary action.

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HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING
FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
Vienna, 17-21 October 1994
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE AND GOVERNANCE

Addendum

WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE 54 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE: 1985-1994

Data provided by the Inter-Parliamentary Union

GE.94-23554

WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE 54 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE : 1985 - 1994

DATA PROVIDED BY THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

*

LES FEMMES DANS LE PARLEMENT NATIONAL DES 54 PAYS MEMBRES DE LA COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE POUR L'EUROPE : 1985 - 1994

DONNEES FOURNIES PAR L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE

PARLIAMENTARY POPULATION IN THE 54 ECE MEMBER COUNTRIES / *POPULATION PARLEMENTAIRE DANS LES 54 PAYS MEMBRES DE LA CEE*	1985*	1994
Total parliamentarians / *Total des parlementaires*	12 583	16 043
Data available on / *Données disponibles sur*	12 583	15 783
Men / *Hommes*	10 552	13 983
Women / *Femmes*	2 031	1 800
% women / femmes	**16.14%**	**11.40%**

SINGLE OR LOWER CHAMBERS / *CHAMBRES UNIQUES OU CHAMBRES BASSES*	1985*	1994
Total parliamentarians / *Total des parlementaires*	10 093	12 722
Data available on / *Données disponibles sur*	10 093	12 462
Men / *Hommes*	8 443	10 941
Women / *Femmes*	1 650	1 521
% women / femmes	**16.35%**	**12.21%**

OTHER CHAMBERS / *AUTRES CHAMBRES*	1985*	1994
Total parliamentarians / *Total des parlementaires*	2 490	3 321
Data available on / *Données disponibles sur*	2 490	3 321
Men / *Hommes*	2 109	3 042
Women / *Femmes*	381	279
% women / femmes	**15.30%**	**8.40%**

* Figures corresponding to the Parliaments of the sovereign States at that date.
Chiffres correspondant aux Parlements des Etats souverains à cette date.

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Kuvendi Popullor - People's Assembly - Assemblée populaire
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote 1945
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues 1945

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
11.1982	250	174	76	30.4
02.1987	250	178	72	28.8
03/04.1991	250	241	9	3.6
03.1992	140	132	8	5.7

ANDORRA / ANDORRE

Consell General - General Council - Conseil général
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote 1975
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues 1976

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
12.1993	28	27	1	3.6

ARMENIA / ARMENIE

Khorhrdaran - Supreme Council - Conseil suprême
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote 02.02.1921
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues 02.02.1921

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
05.1990	260	?	?	?

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Parlament - Parliament - Parlement
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote 19.12.1918
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues 19.12.1918

Austria / Autriche (contd. / suite)

2. **Distribution of seats/*répartition des sièges***

Bundesrat/Federal Council/Conseil fédéral

Elections [1]	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
1987	63	47	16	25.4
05.1991	63	51	12	19.0
1993	63	50	13	20.6

Nationalrat/National Council/Conseil national

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
04.1983	183	163	20	10.9
11.1986	183	163	20	10.9
10.1990	183	143	40	21.8
10.1990	183	144	39	21.3

[1] Indirectly elected; dates of elections vary according to the province / *Elus au scrutin indirect; dates des élections variables selon les provinces*

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

Milli Majlis - National Council - Conseil national
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 19.05.1921
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 19.05.1921

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
09.1990	50	49	1	2.0

BELARUS

Verkhovny Soviet - Supreme Soviet - Soviet suprême
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 04.02.1919
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 04.02.1919

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03.1990	346	333	13	3.8

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Chambres législatives - **Wetgevende Kamers** - Legislative Chambers
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 09.05.1919 - 27.03.1948 [1]
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1921 - 27.03.1948 [1]

.../...

Belgium / Belgique (contd. / suite)

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Sénat/Senaat/Senate

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
10.1985	184 [2]	162	22	12.0
12.1987	184 [2]	169	15 [3]	8.1 [3]
11.1991	184	164	20	10.9

Chambre des Représentants/Kamer van Volksvertegenwoordigers/
House of Representatives

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
10.1985	212	196	16	7.5
12.1987	212	194	18 [4]	8.5 [4]
11.1991	212	192	20	9.4

1 The Law of 9 May 1919 gave the right to vote in national election to the widows or mothers of servicemen killed during the war, citizens shot or killed by the enemy and women political prisonners. In 1921, women were given the right to stand for election at the level of the commune, the province and in Parliament. The Law of 27 March 1948 then gave all women the right to vote in the same conditions as for men. Women voted for the first time in 1949. Universal suffrage was introduced for men in 1919 and was exercised for the first time in 1921. / *Par la loi du 9 mai 1919, sont admises à voter aux élections législatives les veuves ou les mères de militaires morts à la guerre, de citoyens fusillés ou tués par l'ennemi et les femmes prisonnières politiques. En 1921, les femmes ont obtenu le droit de se présenter aux élections communales, provinciales et législatives. La loi du 27 mars 1948 a accordé le droit de vote à toutes les femmes dans les mêmes conditions que les hommes. Elles votèrent pour la première fois en 1949. Pour les hommes, le suffrage universel avait été instauré et exercé pour la première fois en 1921.*

2 106 directly elected, 51 elected by provincial councils, 26 co-opted, and one member of the royal family by right / *106 élus au suffrage direct, 51 élus par les conseils provinciaux, 26 cooptés et un membre de droit de la famille royale*

3 Situation as at 1.11.1990 following the replacement of senators who had resigned: 19 women (10.4%) / *Situation au 1.11.1990 suite au remplacement de sénateurs démissionnaires : 19 femmes (10.4 %)*

4 Situation as at 1.11.1990: 19 women (9.0%) / *Situation au 1.11.1990 : 19 femmes (9.0%)*

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

Skupstina Republike Bosne i Hercegovine - Assembly of the Republic - Assemblée de la République
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 31.01.1949
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 31.01.1949

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
11-12.1990	156	149	7	4.5

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Narodno Sobranie - National Assembly - Assemblée nationale
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 16.10.1944
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 16.10.1944

../...

Bulgaria / Bulgarie (contd. / suite)

2. Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1981	400	313	87	21.7
06.1986	400	316	84	21.0
06.1990 [1]	400	366	34	8.5
10.1991	240	209	31	12.9

1 In 1990, the National Assembly was elected for a shortened term of office (at least 18 months) until the adoption of a new Constitution and some indispensable laws in the economic sector. / *En 1990, l'Assemblée nationale a été élue avec un mandat de durée réduite (18 mois au moins) jusqu'à l'adoption d'une nouvelle Constitution et d'un ensemble de lois indispensables dans le domaine économique.*

CANADA

Parliament of Canada - Parlement du Canada
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. Date(s) on which women were given the right/
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit

a) To vote/de vote — 1917 - 1918 [1]
b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1920

2. Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges

Senate/Sénat

Nominations [2]	Seats/Sièges [3]	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
1985	104	92	12	11.5
1986	104	87	15	14.4
1987	104	87	13	12.5
1988	104	85	13	12.5
1991	107	92	15	14.1
1992	98	85	13	13.3
1993	104	88	16	15.4

House of Commons/Chambre des Communes

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
09.1984	282	255	27	9.5
11.1988	295	256 [4]	39	13.2
10.1993	295	242	53	18.0

1 In 1917, women who served in the military or who had a close male relative serving in the military (i.e. a father, husband or son) were granted the right to vote at the federal level. All women won the right to vote federally in March 1918. Women were given the right to stand for federal election in 1920. In 1950 the federal franchise was extended to Indians (regardless of gender) only if they waived their tax exemptions under the Indian Act. Universal adult suffrage was not finally achieved federally until 1960, with the unqualified extension of voting rights to all Indians under the Act to Amend the Canada Elections Act. It was not until 1969, when Quebec became the last province to extend franchise rights to Indians, that provincial voting was secured. All restrictions were removed in 1918. Since then no formal conditions or exceptions are made on the basis of gender. / *En 1917, les femmes qui étaient membres des Forces armées ou dont des proches parents (père, époux ou fils) en étaient membres ont obtenu le droit de vote au niveau fédéral. Toutes les femmes ont obtenu le droit de vote au niveau fédéral en mars 1918. Les femmes ont obtenu le droit de se présenter aux élections fédérales en 1920. En 1950, le droit de vote au niveau fédéral a été étendu aux Indiens (sans égard à leur sexe) à la condition qu'ils abandonnent l'exemption d'impôt que leur assurait la Loi sur les Indiens. Le suffrage universel pour les adultes n'a été obtenu au niveau fédéral qu'en 1960, grâce à l'extension sans condition du droit de vote à tous les Indiens en vertu de la Loi modifiant la Loi électorale du Canada. Ce n'est qu'en 1969, lorsque le Québec a été la dernière province à étendre le droit de vote aux Indiens, que le droit de vote au niveau provincial a été garanti. Toutes les restrictions ont été éliminées en 1918. Depuis lors, aucune condition officielle n'est imposée et aucune exception n'est faite en fonction du sexe.*

2 All appointed. The term of office of individual Senators is continuous and lasts until the age of their retirement (75 years of age). However, Senators appointed prior to 1 June 1965 hold office for life. For the sake of convenience the breakdown of seats is given by year. / *Tous nommés. Le mandat des sénateurs est ininterrompu et dure jusqu'à l'âge de leur retraite (75 ans). Toutefois, les sénateurs nommés avant le 1er juin 1965 sont nommés à vie. Il a paru utile de donner ici la répartition des sièges chaque année.*

3 Vacancies in each year except in 1960 / *Des sièges sont demeurés vacants tous les ans, sauf en 1960*

4 1 vacancy / *1 vacance*

CROATIA / CROATIE

Sabor - Parliament - Parlement
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 31.01.1949
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 31.01.1949

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Zupanijski Dom/House of Zupanije/Chambre des Zupanije

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
02.1993	63	60	3	4.8

Zastupnicki Dom/House of Representatives/Chambre des Représentants

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
08.1992	138	130	8	5.8

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Vouli Antiprosopon - House of Representatives - Chambre des Représentants
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1960
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1960

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
12.1985	56 + 24 [1]	55	1	1.8
05.1991	56 + 24 [1]	53	3	5.4

[1] 24 seats retained for Turkish Cypriots, which are currently vacant / *24 sièges réservés aux Chypriotes turcs, actuellement vacants*

CZECH REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

Poslanecka Snemovna - Chamber of Deputies - Chambre des Députés [1]
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1920
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1920

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1992	200	180	20	10.0

[1] Parliament also comprises an 81-member elected Senate, which has not yet been formed. / *Le Parlement comprend également un Sénat élu de 81 membres, qui n'a pas encore été constitué.*

DENMARK / DANEMARK

Folketinget - Parliament - Parlement
(unicameral/monocaméral) [1]

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 06.1915
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 06.1915

.../...

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
01.1984	179	132	47	26.2
09.1987	179	128	52	29.0
05.1988	179	124	55	30.7
12.1990	179	120	59	33.0

1 Since 1953 / *Depuis 1953*

ESTONIA / ESTONIE

Riigikogu - State Assembly - Assemblée de l'Etat
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1920
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1920

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
09.1992	102	88	14[1]	13.7

1. 12 women in June 1994 / *12 femmes en juin 1994*

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Eduskunta - Riksdagen - Parliament - Parlement
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1906
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1906

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03.1983	200	139	61	30.5
03.1987	200	137	63	31.5
03.1991	200	122	78	39.0

FRANCE

Parlement - Parliament
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 21.04.1944
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 21.04.1944

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**
Sénat/Senate [1]

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
09.1983	317	308	9	2.8
09.1986	319	310	9	2.8
09.1989	321	311	10 [2]	3.1
09.1992	321	305	16	5.0

.../...

France (contd. / suite)

Assemblée nationale/National Assembly

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1981	491	465	26	5.3
03.1986	577	543	34	5.9
06.1988	577	544	33	5.7
03.1993	577	542	35	6.1

1 Indirectly elected / *Elu au scrutin indirect*

2 11 in 1991 / *11 en 1991*

GEORGIA / GEORGIE

Sakartvelos Parlamenti - Parliament - Parlement
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1918
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1918

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
10.1992	222	208	14	6.3

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

There is no official name for the two Chambers as a whole *Il n'existe pas de dénomination officielle pour l'ensemble des deux Chambres*
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 12.11.1918
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 12.11.1918

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Bundesrat/Federal Council/Conseil fédéral [1]

Nominations [2]	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
12.1990	68	58	10	14.7

Deutscher Bundestag/Federal Diet/Diète fédérale [3]

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
12.1990	662	526	136	20.5

1 The Bundesrat consists of delegates from each of the 16 Länder (States) of re-unified Germany, including 5 from what was formally the German Democratic Republic. In December 1990, membership rose from 45 to 68. / *Le Bundesrat est formé de délégués de chacun des 16 Länder (Etats) de l'Allemagne réunifiée, y compris 5 délégués de l'ancienne République démocratique allemande. En décembre 1990, le nombre des membres est passé de 45 à 68.*

2 The term of office of individual members appointed by their *Land* (State) Governments depends on the duration of the term of the *Land* Diet they represent. / *La durée du mandat des membres qui sont nommés au Bundesrat par le Gouvernement de leur Land (Etat fédéré) dépend de celle de la Diète du Land qu'ils représentent.*

3 Since the re-unification of Germany in October 1990, the Bundestag is composed of 662 Deputies, i.e. 518 from the former Federal Republic of Germany and 144 from the former German Democratic Republic; the latter have been observers in the Bundestag between October and December 1990, when the first all-Germany general elections took place. / *Depuis la réunification de l'Allemagne en octobre 1990, le Bundestag est composé de 662 députés, à savoir 518 députés de l'ancienne République fédérale d'Allemagne et 114 de l'ancienne République démocratique allemande; ceux-ci avaient le statut d'observateurs au Bundestag entre octobre et décembre 1990, jusqu'aux premières élections générales pour toute l'Allemagne.*

GREECE / GRECE

Vouli Ton Ellinon - Greek Chamber of Deputies - Chambre des Députés hellénique
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 01.01.1952 [1]
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 01.01.1952 [1]

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1985	300	287	13	4.3
06.1989	300	288	12	4.0
11.1989	300	280	20	6.7
04.1990	300	284	16 [2]	5.3
10.1993	300	282	18	6.0

1 The Constitution of 1927 provides that all Greek citizens are equal in law and that "political rights can be conferred to women by law". On 2 January 1930 the Council of State expressed the view that women could have the right to vote in municipal and communal elections. In April 1949, Law No. 959 gave to women the right to vote and to stand for office in municipal and communal elections. The Constitution of 1 January 1952 then established the right to vote and to stand for election at the national level. / *La Constitution de 1927 stipule que tous les citoyens grecs sont égaux devant la loi et que "des droits politiques peuvent être conférés aux femmes par une loi". Le 2 janvier 1930, le Conseil d'Etat a rendu un avis accordant aux femmes le droit de vote aux élections communales et municipales. En avril 1949, la Loi n° 959 a accordé aux femmes le droit de voter et d'être élues aux élections communales et municipales. La Constitution du 1er janvier 1952 a entériné le droit de vote et le droit de se présenter aux élections à l'échelon national.*

2 Two women resigned / *2 femmes ont démissionné*

HUNGARY / HONGRIE

Orszaggyüles - National Assembly - Assemblée nationale
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1945
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1945

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1985	387	305 [1]	81	20.9
03-04.1990	386 [2]	358	28	7.3
05.1994	386	344	42	10.9

1 1 vacancy/ *1 vacance*

2 328 directly elected and 58 "national list" seats / *328 sièges pourvus au suffrage direct et 58 sièges relevant de "listes nationales"*

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Althingi - Parliament - Parlement

The Althingi is elected as a single legislative body but operates in three chambers: the Upper House (comprised of 21 members) and the Lower House (comprised of 42 members) deal with legislative matters and the United Althingi (comprised of all 63 members) deals with all other issues. / *L'Althingi est élu à titre de Chambre unique mais fonctionne comme un Parlement tricaméral: la Chambre haute (comprenant 21 membres) et la Chambre basse (42 membres) traitent des questions législatives et l'Althingi uni (composé de l'ensemble des 63 membres) est chargé de toutes les autres questions.*

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1915
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1915

Iceland / Islande (contd. / suite)

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
04.1983	60	51	9	15.0
04.1987	63	50	13	20.6
04.1991	63	48	15	23.8

IRELAND / IRLANDE

An Oireachtas - The Parliament - Parlement
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote 1918
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues 1918

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Seanad Eireann/Senate/Sénat

Elections	Seats/Sièges [1]	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
01.1983	60	54	6	10.0
04.1987	60	55	5	8.3
08.1989	60	54	6	10.0
02.1992	60	52	8	13.3

Dáil Eireann/House of Representatives/Chambre des Représentants

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
11.1982	166	153	13	7.8
02.1987	166	152	14	8.4
06.1989	166	153	13	7.8
11.1992	166	146	20	12.0

[1] Including 11 appointed members; 2 women among them in 1991 / *Y compris 11 membres nommés parmi lesquels 2 femmes en 1991*

ISRAEL

Knesset - Parliament - Parlement
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote 1948
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues 1948

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
07.1984	120	110	10	8.3
11.1988	120	112	8	6.7
06.1992	120	109	11	9.2

ITALY / ITALIE

Il Parlamento - Parliament - Parlement
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote 01.02.1945
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues 01.02.1945

Italy / Italie (contd. / suite)

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Senato della Repubblica/Senate/Sénat

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1983	315 [1]	299	16	5.0
06.1987	315 [1]	294	21	6.7
04.1992	326	295	31	9.5
03.1994	326	297	29	8.9

Camera dei Deputati/Chamber of Deputies/Chambre des Députés

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1983	630	582	48	7.6
06.1987	630	549	81	12.8
04.1992	630	579	51	8.1
03.1994	630	535	95	15.1

[1] Excluding 9 members appointed for life of whom 1 is a woman / *Non compris 9 membres nommés à vie, dont 1 femme*

KAZAKHSTAN

Verkhovny Soviet - Supreme Soviet - Soviet suprême
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/ Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit**

		Confirmed on/ Confirmé le
a) To vote/de vote	31.01.1924	28.01.1993
b) To stand for election/d'être élues	31.01.1924	28.01.1993

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03.1990	360	336	24	6.7
03.1994	177	156	21	11.9

KYRGHYZSTAN / KIRGHIZISTAN

Joghorku Kenesh - Supreme Soviet - Soviet suprême
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/ Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit**
   a) To vote/de vote
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
02.1990	350	328	22	6.3

LATVIA / LETTONIE

Saeima - Supreme Council - Conseil suprême
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/ Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit**

a) To vote/de vote	18.11.1918
b) To stand for election/d'être élues	18.11.1918

Latvia / Lettonie (contd. / suite)

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1993	100	85	15	15.0

LIECHTENSTEIN

Landtag - Diet - Diète
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 24.08.1984
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 24.08.1984

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
02.1986 [1]	15	14	1	6.6
03.1989	25	24	1	4.0
02.1993	25	24	1	4.0
10.1993	25	23	2	8.0

[1] First elections in which women could run as candidates / *Premières élections auxquelles les femmes pouvaient être candidates*

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE

Seimas - Parliament - Parlement
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 05.10.1921
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 05.10.1921

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
10-11.1992	141	131	10	7.1

LUXEMBOURG

Chambre des Députés - Chamber of Deputies
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 15.05.1919
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 15.05.1919

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1984	60	53	7	11.7
06.1989	60	52	8	13.3
06.1994	60	48	12	20.0

MALTA / MALTE

Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati - House of Representatives - Chambre des Représentants
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 05.09.1947
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 05.09.1947

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
12.1981	65	63	2 [1]	3.1
05.1987	69 [2]	67	2	2.9
02.1992	65	64	1	1.5

1 One woman MP resigned in January 1982 to become President of Malta and therefore resigned from her seat in Parliament. / *Une femme parlementaire est devenue Présidente de Malte en janvier 1982 et a donc démissionné de son siège au Parlement.*

2 65 elected, 4 appointed by the Majority Party / *65 élus et 4 nommés par le parti majoritaire*

MONACO

Conseil national - National Council
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 17.12.1962
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 17.12.1962

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
01.1983	18	16	2	11.1
01.1988	18	16	2	11.1
01.1993	18	17	1	5.6

NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS

Staten-Generaal - States-General - Etats-Généraux
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1919
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1917

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**
   Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal/First Chamber of the States-General/Première Chambre des Etats-Généraux

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
08.1983	75 [1]	61	14	18.6
05.1986	75 [1]	59	16	21.3
07.1987	75 [1]	58	17	22.6
09.1989	75 [1]	59	16	21.3
05.1991	75 [1]	56	19	25.3

.../...

Netherlands / Pays-Bas (contd. / suite)

Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal/Second Chamber of the States-General/Deuxième Chambre des Etats-Généraux

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
09.1982	150	125	25	16.6
05.1986	150	120	30	20.0
09.1989	150	106	44	29.3
05.1994	150	103	47	31.3

1 Indirectly elected / *Elus au scrutin indirect*

NORWAY / NORVEGE

Stortinget - Parliament - Parlement

(When dealing with legislative matters, the Storting divides itself into two bodies, an upper Chamber called Lagting consisting of 41 members and a lower Chamber called Odelsting consisting of 124 members. / *Pour exercer sa fonction législative, le Storting se divise en deux chambres, une Chambre haute nommée Lagting composée de 41 membres et une Chambre basse nommée Odelsting composée de 124 membres).*

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1907 - 1913 [1]
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1907 - 1913 [1]

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
09.1985	157	103	54	34.4
09.1989	165	106	59 [2]	35.8
09.1993	165	100	65	39.4

1 Women were given the right to stand for election in 1907 but between 1907 and 1913, on special conditions: private means, property and a good position and income were necessary for a woman to be elected a Member of Parliament. / *Le droit de voter et d'être élues a été accordé aux femmes en 1907 mais à certaines conditions entre 1907 et 1913 : des ressources personnelles, des biens personnels et une bonne situation et un bon revenu étaient nécessaires pour qu'une femme puisse être élue au Parlement.*

2 13 women are nominated Members of the Lagting and 46 members of the Odelsting. / *13 femmes sont nommées membres du Lagting et 46 sont nommées membres du Odelsting.*

POLAND / POLOGNE

Zgromadzenie Narodowe - National Assembly - Assemblée nationale (bicameral/bicaméral) [1]

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1918
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1918

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Senat/Senate/Sénat

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1989	100	93	7	7.0
10.1991	100	92	8	8.0
09.1993	100	87	13	13.0

Sejm/Diet/Diète

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1989	460	398	62	13.5
10.1991	460	416	44	9.6
09.1993	460	400	60	13.0

1 Since 4 June 1989 : see also p. 22 / *Depuis le 4 juin 1989 : voir aussi p. 22*

PORTUGAL

Assembleia Da Republica - Assembly of the Republic - Assemblée de la République
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 05.05.1931-1976 [1]
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 05.05.1931-1976 [1]

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
10.1985	250	234	16	6.4
07.1987	250	231	19	7.6
10.1991	230	210	20	8.7

[1] Decree No. 19694 of 5 May 1931 formally gave women the right to vote and to stand for election, albeit with some restrictions: it was necessary for women to have completed secondary or higher studies while men only had to know how to read and write. In 1968, Law No. 2137 established equal political rights for men and women but maintained some restrictions on elections to certain local administrative bodies (which were already in the preceding Law). Total equality was only achieved in the Constitution of 1976. /

Le décret n° 19694 du 5 mai 1931 reconnaissait officiellement aux femmes le droit de voter et d'être élues mais à certaines conditions: celles-ci devaient avoir terminé leurs études secondaires ou supérieures alors que les hommes devaient seulement savoir lire et écrire. En 1968, l'égalité des droits politiques des hommes et des femmes a été entérinée dans la Loi n° 2137 qui maintenait toutefois certaines restrictions (déjà prévues dans la loi antérieure) concernant l'élection à certains organes administratifs locaux. L'égalité absolue n'a été déclarée que dans la Constitution de 1970.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

Parlamentul - Parliament - Parlement
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/** **Confirmed on/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit **Confirmé le**
   a) To vote/de vote — 15/04/1978 — 14/10/1993
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 15/04/1978 — 14/10/1993

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
02.1990	380	372	8	2.1
02.1994	104	99	5	4.8

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Parlamentul României - Parliament - Parlement
(bicameral/bicaméral) [1]

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1929 - 07.1946 [2]
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1929 - 07.1946 [2]

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**
   Senat/Senate/Sénat

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
05.1990 [3]	119	118	1	0.8
09.1992	143	141	2	1.4

.../...

Romania / Roumanie (contd. / suite)

Camera Deputatilor/House of Deputies/Chambre des Députés

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
05.1990 [3]	387	373	14	3.6
09.1992	341	329	12	3.5

1 Since 1990 : see also p. 23 / *Depuis 1990 : voir aussi p. 23*

2 Women had restricted electoral rights as from 1929. Full electoral rights were given to them, under the same conditions as men, in July 1946 / *Droits électoraux restreints dès 1929; dans les mêmes conditions que les hommes à dater de juillet 1946*

3 In May 1990, Parliament was elected for a shortened term of a maximum of 18 months, with constituent powers. After the entry into force of the new Constitution drawn up by Parliament, new general elections were to be held within a year. / *Le Parlement a été élu en mai 1990 pour un mandat réduit d'une durée maximale de 18 mois, avec les pouvoirs d'une assemblée constituante; après l'entrée en vigueur de la nouvelle Constitution élaborée par elle, de nouvelles élections générales devaient avoir lieu dans un délai de 12 mois.*

RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

Federalnoye Sobraniye - Federal Assembly - Assemblée fédérale
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 06.1918
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 06.1918

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Soviet Federatsii/Council of the Federation/Conseil de la Fédération

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
12.1993	178	169	9	5.1

Gosudarstvennaya Duma/State Duma/Duma d'Etat

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
12.1993	448	405	43	9.6

SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

Consiglio Grande e Generale - Great General Council - Grand Conseil général
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 01.01.1960
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 10.09.1973

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
05.1983	60	54	6	10.0
05.1988	60	53	7	11.7
05.1993	60	53	7	11.7

SLOVAK REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE

Národná Rada Slovenskej Republiky - National Council - Conseil national
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1920
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1920

Slovak Republik / République slovaque (contd. / suite)

2. Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1992	127	104	23	18.1

SLOVENIA - SLOVENIE

Drzavni Zbor Republike Slovenije - National Assembly - Assemblée nationale
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. Date(s) on which women were given the right/
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit

a) To vote/de vote 1945
b) To stand for election/d'être élues 1945

2. Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
12.1992	90	77	13	14.4

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Las Cortes Generales - The Cortes - Les Cortes
(bicameral/bicaméral) [1]

1. Date(s) on which women were given the right/
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit

a) To vote/de vote 1931
b) To stand for election/d'être élues 1931

2. Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges

Senado/Senate/Sénat

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
10.1982	256	245	8+3 [2]	4.3
06.1986	254	240	14	5.5
10.1989	254	227	27	10.6
06.1993	254	222	32	12.6

Congreso de los Diputados/Congress of Deputies/Congrès des Députés

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
10.1982	350	328	17+5	6.3
06.1986	350	317	33	9.4
10.1989	350	299	51	14.6
06.1993	350	294	56	16.0

1 As from June 1977 / *A dater de juin 1977*

2 3 women appointed by the autonomous communities / *3 femmes nommées par les communautés autonomes*

SWEDEN / SUEDE

Riksdagen - Parliament - Parlement
(unicameral/monocaméral) [1]

1. Date(s) on which women were given the right/
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit

a) To vote/de vote 1918 - 1921 [2]
b) To stand for election/d'être élues 1918 - 1921 [2]

Sweden / Suède (contd. / suite)

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
09.1985	349	241	108	30.9
09.1988	349	216	133	38.1
09.1991	349	232	117	33.5

1 Since 1969 / *Depuis 1969*

2 Between 1918 and 1921 women had the right to vote and to stand for election to various representative bodies but not to Parliament. / *Entre 1918 et 1921, les femmes avaient le droit de voter et d'être élues à divers organes représentatifs mais pas au Parlement.*

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Bundesversammlung - Assemblée fédérale - Assemblea Federale - Federal Assembly
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote 07.02.1971
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues 07.02.1971

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Ständerat/Conseil des Etats/Consiglio degli Stati/Council of States

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
10.1983	46	43	3	6.5
10.1987	46	41	5	10.9
10.1991	46	42	4	8.7

Nationalrat/Conseil national/Consiglio nazionale/National Council

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
10.1983	200	178	22	11.0
10.1987	200	172	28 [1]	14.0
10.1991	200	165	35	17.5

1 32 women (16.0%) in April 1991 / *32 femmes (16.0%) en avril 1991*

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA / EX-REPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACEDOINE

Sobranie - Assembly - Assemblée
(unicameral/monocaméral)*

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote 31.12.1946
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues 31.12.1946

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
11-12.1990	120	115	5	4.2

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi (T.B.M.M.)
Turkish Grand National Assembly - Grande Assemblée nationale turque
(unicameral/monocaméral) [1]

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1930 - 1934 [2]
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1930 - 1934 [2]

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
11.1983	400	388	12	3.0
11.1987	450	444	6	1.3
10.1991	450	442	8	1.8

1 As from November 1983 / *Depuis novembre 1983*

2 1930 for local elections; 1934 for legislative elections / *1930 pour les élections locales et 1934 pour les élections législatives*

TURKMENISTAN

Mejlis - Assembly (or Council) - Assemblée (ou Conseil)
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
01.1990	175	167	8	4.6

UKRAINE

Verkhovna Rada - Parliament - Parlement
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 10.03.1919
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 10.03.1919

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03.1990	450	?	?	?
04.1994	337[1]	325	12	3.6

1 Only 337 out of the 450 seats have been filled; the remaining seats will be filled in the 24 July 1994 election / *337 seulement des 450 sièges ont été pourvus; les sièges restants seront pourvus lors de l'élection du 24 juillet 1994*

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI

Parliament - Parlement
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 1918 - 1928 [1]
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 1918 - 1928 [1]

United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni (contd. / suite)

2. Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges

House of Lords/Chambre des Lords

Continuous term / Durée ininterrompue	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
05.1991	965 [2]	890	75 [3]	7.8
05.1994	1196	1119	77	6.4

House of Commons/Chambre des Communes

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1983	650	627	23	3.5
06.1987	650	609	41 [4]	6.3
04.1992	651	591	60 [5]	9.2

1 1918 for women over 30 years of age - 1928 for full voting equality with men (over 21 and now 18 for both sexes) / *1918 pour les femmes de plus de 30 ans; 1928 pour l'obtention du droit de vote à égalité avec les hommes (à partir de 21 ans et maintenant 18 ans pour les deux sexes)*

2 222 other Peers are on leave of absence or have no writ of summons / *Les 222 autres Pairs sont dispensés*

3 Until 1958, women could not sit in the House of Lords but since then many women Peers have been appointed for their lifetime; since 1963, women inheriting peerages in their own right have also been able to sit in the House of Lords. / *Jusqu'en 1958, les femmes ayant le titre de Pair ne pouvaient pas siéger à la Chambre des Lords; depuis lors, plusieurs ont été nommées à vie; en outre, depuis 1963, les femmes ayant hérité le titre de Pair à titre personnel peuvent siéger à la Chambre des Lords.*

4 Since 1987, 3 more women have been elected at by-elections / *Depuis 1987, 3 femmes de plus élues lors d'élections partielles*

5 2 women elected in the by-elections in June 1994 / *2 femmes élues lors d'élections partielles en juin 1994*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

US Congress - Congrès
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. Date(s) on which women were given the right/ Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit

a) To vote/de vote — 26.08.1920
b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 13.09.1788 [1]

2. Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges

Senate/Sénat

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
11.1984	100	98	2	2.0
11.1986	100	98	2	2.0
11.1988	100	98	2	2.0
11.1990	100	97 [2]	2	2.0
11.1992	100	93	7	7.0

House of Representatives/Chambre des Représentants

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
11.1984	435	413	22	5.0
11.1986	435	412	23	5.3
11.1988	435	406	29	6.7
11.1990	435	403 [3]	28 [4]	6.4
11.1992	435	387	48	11.0

1 The Constitution of 13 September 1788 does not menion sex with regard to the right to stand for election to the House of Representatives or the Senate, referring only to "members" or "persons". Nor does the Constitution mention sex with regard to eligibility for election to the Presidency or Vice-Presidency. / *La Constitution du 13 septembre 1788 ne fait aucune référence au sexe en ce qui concerne les conditions pour être élu à la Chambre des Représentants ou au Sénat; les termes employés sont "membres" ou "personnes". La Constitution ne fait pas non plus mention du sexe en ce qui concerne le droit de se porter candidat à la Présidence ou la vice-Présidence des Etats-Unis.*

2 1 vacancy / *1 vacance*

3 4 vacancies / *4 vacances*

4 Including one non-voting woman member / *Y compris une femme sans droit de vote*

UZBEKISTAN - OUZBEKISTAN

Oliy Kengash - Supreme Council - Conseil suprême
(unicameral/monocaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
02.1990	500	452	48	9.6

YUGOSLAVIA / YOUGOSLAVIE

Skupstina SRJ - Federal Assembly - Assemblée fédérale
(bicameral/bicaméral)

1. **Date(s) on which women were given the right/**
   Dates auxquelles les femmes ont acquis le droit
   a) To vote/de vote — 31.01.1949
   b) To stand for election/d'être élues — 31.01.1949

2. **Distribution of seats/Répartition des sièges**

Vece Republika/Chamber of Republics/Chambre des Républiques

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
12.1992	40	39	1	2.5
12.1993	40	39	1	2.5

Vece Gradjana/Chamber of Citizens/Chambre des citoyens

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
12.1992	133	129	4	3.0

*
* *

*** PREVIOUS SITUATION / SITUATION ANTERIEURE ***

CZECHOSLOVAKIA / TCHECOSLOVAQUIE

Federalni Shromazdeni - Federal Assembly - Assemblée fédérale
(bicameral/bicaméral) [1]

Snemovna Narodu/Chamber of Nations/Chambre des Nations

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1981	150	107	43	28.7
05.1986	150	106	44	29.3
06.1990 [2]	150 [3]	133	17	11.3

Snemovna Lidu/Chamber of the People/Chambre du Peuple

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1981	200	144	56	28.0
05.1986	200	141	59	29.5
06.1990 [2]	150	137	13	8.7

1 Since 1968 / *Depuis 1968*

2 In 1990, both Chambers were elected with a shortened term of office (2 years) until the adoption of a new Constitution. / *En 1990, les deux Chambres ont été élues avec un mandat d'une durée réduite à 2 ans, jusqu'à l'adoption d'une nouvelle Constitution.*

3 75 members are elected by the Czech Republic and 75 are elected by the Slovak Republic / *75 élus par la République tchèque et 75 élus par la République slovaque*

GERMANY (Federal Republic of) / ALLEMAGNE (République fédérale d')

There was no official name for the two Chambers as a whole / Il n'existait pas de dénomination officielle pour l'ensemble des deux Chambres (bicameral/bicaméral)

Bundesrat/Federal Council/Conseil fédéral

Nominations 1	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
01.1985	45 + 79 [2]	44 + 69	1 + 10	2.2 + 8.8
06.1987	45 + 82	44 + 70	1 + 12	2.2 + 10.2

1 Members belonged to a Government of a Land (State) which appointed (and recalled) them; their term of office depended on the duration of the term of the Land Parliament which they represented. As this duration varied, the Bundesrat was a permanent body with no fixed legislative period. / *Les membres appartenaient au Gouvernement d'un Land (Etat) qui les nommait (et les rappelait); la durée de leur mandat dépendait de celle du Parlement du Land qu'ils représentaient; celle-ci étant variable, le Bundesrat était un organe permanent sans mandat de durée déterminée.*

2 Regular members + deputy members / *membres ordinaires + membres suppléants*

Deutscher Bundestag/Federal Diet/Diète fédérale

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03.1983	520	469	51	9.8
01.1987	519	439	80	15.4

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE

Volkskammer - People's Chamber - Chambre du Peuple
Called "Volkskammer und Länderkammer" (People's and States Chamber) between 1950 and 1958 and "Volkskammer der DDR" (People's Chamber of the GDR) between 1963 and 1990 / *Appelée "Volkskammer und Länderkammer" (Chambre du Peuple et des Etats) entre 1950 et 1958 et "Volkskammer der DDR" (Chambre du Peuple de la RDA) entre 1963 et 1990*
(unicameral/monocameral)

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
06.1981	500	338	162	32.4
06.1986	500	339	161	32.2
03.1990	400	318	82	20.5

POLAND / POLOGNE

Sejm - The Diet - La Diète
(unicameral/monocaméral)

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
10.1985	460	367	93	20.2

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Marea Adunare Nationala - Grand National Assembly - Grande Assemblée nationale
(unicameral/monocaméral)

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03.1985	369	242	127	34.4

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (USSR) / UNION DES REPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES SOVIETIQUES (URSS)

Verkhovnyi Soviet SSR - USSR Supreme Soviet - Soviet suprême de l'URSS
(bicameral/bicaméral)
Soviet Soiuza/Soviet of the Union/Soviet de l'Union

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03.1984	750	517	233	31.1

Soviet Natsionalnostei/Soviet of Nationalities/Soviet des Nationalités

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03.1984	750	491	259	34.5

*
* *

S'ezd Narodnykh Deputatov SSSR - Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR - Congrès des Députés du Peuple de l'URSS

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03-05.1989	2250	1897	352	15.6

Verkhovnyi Soviet SSSR - USSR Supreme Soviet - Soviet suprême de l'URSS
(bicameral/bicaméral)
Soviet Soiuza/Soviet of the Union/Soviet de l'Union

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
05.1989	271	232	39	14.4

Soviet Natsionalnostei/Soviet of Nationalities/Soviet des Nationalités

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
05.1989	271	216	55	20.3

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* *

RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

Verkhovnyi Soviet Rossiyskoi Federatsii - Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation - Soviet Suprême de la Fédération de Russie
(bicameral/bicaméral)
Soviet Respubliki/Soviet of the Republic/Soviet de la République

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03.1990	126	115	11	8.7

Soviet Natsionalnostei/Soviet of Nationalities/Soviet des Nationalités

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
03.1990	126	115	11	8.7

YOUGOSLAVIA / YOUGOSLAVIE

Skupstina SFRJ - Skupcina SFRJ - Sobranie Na SFRL - Assembly of the SFR of Yugoslavia - Assemblée de la RFS de Yougoslavie
(bicameral/bicaméral) [1]

Vece Republika I Pokrajina - Vijece Republika I Pokrajina - Zbor Republik In Pokrajin - Sobor Na Republikite I Pokrajinite/ Chamber of Republics and Provinces/Conseil des Républiques et des Provinces

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
05.1982	88 [2]	79	9	10.2
04/05.1986 [3]	88 [2]	79	9 [4]	10.2

Savezno Vece - Savezno Vijece - Sveznl Zbor - Sojuzen Sobor /Federal Chamber/Conseil fédéral

Elections	Seats/Sièges	Men/Hommes	Women/Femmes	Per cent
05.1982	220 [2]	175	45	20.4
04/05.1986 [3]	220 [2]	181	39 [5]	17.7

1 As from January 1974 / *Depuis janvier 1974*
2 Indirectly elected / *Elus au scrutin indirect*
3 The 4-year term of the Assembly of the SFR of Yugoslavia was extended in May and November 1990, both times for six-months periods. / *Le mandat de 4 ans de l'Assemblée de la RFS de Yougoslavie a été prorogé en mai puis en novembre 1990, de six mois dans les deux cas.*
4 Plus 2 appointed women members / *Plus 2 femmes nommées*
5 Plus 3 appointed women members / *Plus 3 femmes nommées*

UNITED
NATIONS

E

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING
FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
Vienna, 17-21 October 1994
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE AND GOVERNANCE

ADDENDUM

DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE 54 ECE MEMBER COUNTRIES - 30 JUNE 1994

Data provided by the Inter-Parliamentary Union

I. COMPARATIVE DATA 1985-1994

Parliamentary population in the 54 ECE member countries	1985*	1994
Total parliamentarians	12 583	16 043
Data available on	12 583	15 783
Men	10 552	13 983
Women	2 031	1 800
% Women	**6.14%**	**11.40%**

SINGLE OR LOWER CHAMBERS	1985*	1994
Total parliamentarians	10 093	12 722
Data available on	10 093	12 462
Men	8 443	10 941
Women	1 650	1 521
% Women	**16.35%**	**12.21%**

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OTHER CHAMBERS	1985*	1994
Total parliamentarians	2 490	3 321
Data available on	2 490	3 321
Men	2 109	3 042
Women	381	279
% Women	**15.30%**	**8.40%**

* Figures corresponding to the Parliaments of the sovereign States at that date.

II. COUNTRY BREAKDOWN AS AT 30 JUNE 1994

The date of the latest elections or of the appointment as well as the number of women out of the total membership of the House are indicated in brackets

Albania		
People's Assembly (March 1992)	5.7	(8/140)
Andorra		
General Council (December 1993)	3.6	(1/28)
Armenia		
Supreme Council (October 1993)	?	(?/260)
Austria		
Federal Council (varying dates according to the provinces)	20.6	(13/63)
National Council (October 1990)	21.3	(39/183)
Azerbaijan		
National Council (September 1990)	2.0	(1/50)
Belarus		
Supreme Soviet (March 1990)	3.8	(13/346)
Belgium		
Senate (November 1991)	10.9	(20/184)
House of Representatives (November 1991)	9.4	(20/212)
Bosnia and Herzegovina		
Assembly of the Republic (Nov./Dec. 1990)	4.5	(7/156)
Bulgaria		
National Assembly (October 1991)	12.9	(31/240)
Canada		
Senate (all appointed for a continuous term) . . .	15.4	(16/104)
House of Commons (November 1993)	18.0	(53/295)
Croatia		
House of Zupanije (February 1993)	4.8	(3/63)
House of Representatives (August 1992)	5.8	(8/138)
Cyprus		
House of Representatives (May 1991)	5.4	(3/56)
Czech republic		
Chamber of Deputies (June 1992)	10.0	(20/200)
Denmark		
Folketinget (December 1990)	33.0	(59/179)
Estonia		
State Assembly (September 1992)	13.7	(14/102)
Finland		
Eduskunta — Riksdagen (March 1991)	39.0	(78/200)

France		
Senate (September 1992)	5.0	(16/321)
National Assembly (March 1993)	6.1	(35/577)
Georgia		
Supreme Soviet (October 1992)	6.3	(14/222)
Germany		
Bundesrat (varying dates)	14.7	(10/68)
Bundestag (December 1990)	20.5	(136/662)
Greece		
Greek Chamber of Deputies (October 1993)	6.0	(18/300)
Hungary		
National Assembly (May 1994)	10.9	(42/386)
Iceland		
Althingi (April 1991)	23.8	(15/63)
Ireland		
Senate (February 1992)	13.3	(8/60)
House of Representatives (November 1992)	12.0	(20/166)
Israel		
Knesset (June 1992)	9.2	(11/120)
Italy		
Senate (March 1994)	8.9	(29/326)
Chamber of Deputies (March 1994)	15.1	(95/630)
Kazakhstan		
Supreme Soviet (March 1994)	11.9	(21/177)
Kyrghyzstan		
Supreme Soviet (February 1990)	6.3	(22/350)
Latvia		
Supreme Council (June 1993)	15.0	(15/100)
Liechtenstein		
Diet (October 1993)	8.0	(2/25)
Lithuania		
Seimas (Oct./Nov. 1992)	7.1	(10/141)
Luxembourg		
Chamber of Deputies (June 1994)	20.0	(12/60)
Malta		
House of Representatives (February 1992)	1.5	(1/65)
Moldova		
Parliament (February 1994)	4.8	(5/104)
Monaco		
National Council (January 1993)	5.6	(1/18)
Norway		
Stortinget (September 1993)	39.4	(65/165)
Netherlands		
First Chamber (May 1991)	25.3	(19/75)
Second Chamber (May 1994)	31.3	(47/150)
Poland		
Senate (September 1993)	13.0	(13/100)
Sejm (September 1993)	13.0	(60/460)
Portugal		
Assembly of the Republic (October 1991)	8.7	(20/230)
Romania		
Senate (September 1992)	1.4	(2/143)
House of Deputies (September 1992)	3.5	(12/341)

Russian Federation		
Council of the Federation (December 1993)	5.1	(9/178)
State Duma (December 1993)	9.6	(43/448)
San. Marino		
Great General Council (May 1993)	11.7	(7/60)
Slovak Republic		
National Council (June 1992)	18.1	(23/127)
Slovenia		
National Assembly (December 1992)	14.4	(13/90)
Spain		
Senate (June 1993)	12.6	(32/254)
Congress of Deputies (June 1993)	16.0	(56/350)
Sweden		
Riksdagen (September 1991)	33.5	(117/349)
Switzerland		
Council of States (October 1991)	8.7	(4/46)
National Council (October 1991)	17.5	(35/200)
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		
National Assembly (Nov./Dec. 1990)	4.2	(5/120)
Turkey		
Grand National Assembly (October 1991)	1.8	(8/450)
Turkmenistan		
Supreme Soviet (January 1990)	4.6	(8/175)
Ukraine		
Parliament (April 1994)	3.6	(12/337)
United Kingdom		
House of Lords	6.4	(77/1196)
House of Commons (April 1992)	9.2	(60/651)
United States of America		
Senate (November 1992)	7.0	(7/100)
House of Representatives (November 1992)	11.0	(48/435)
Uzbekistan		
Supreme Council (February 1990)	9.6	(48/500)
Yugoslavia		
Chamber of Republics (December 1993)	2.5	(1/40)
Chamber of Citizens (December 1992)	3.0	(4/133)